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a) communication means for transmitting and receiving information signals to and from said base station via radio waves;

b) input/output means for a user to interact with said mobile communication apparatus; said input/output means comprising a keypad, display means, a speaker, and a microphone;

c) a removable semiconductor memory for storing received information signals; and

d) processing means for encrypting the information signals prior to storage in said memory means;

whereby said mobile communication device is operable to receive said information signals from said base station automatically and periodically.—

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Final Action dated August 15, 2002. The claim amendments included herein are merely clarifying amendments and are not meant to change the intended scope of the claims. Thus, the amendments present the rejected claims in better form for consideration on appeal, and should be entered in due course. Moreover, the amendments are manifest, requiring only a cursory review by the Examiner, thereby providing additional ground for their entry.

Claims 7-18 were pending in the application. In the Final Action, claims 7-18 were rejected. In this Amendment, claims 7 and 13 have been amended. Claims 7-18 thus remain for consideration.

Applicant submits that claims 7-18 are in condition for allowance and requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections in light of the following remarks.

§103 Rejections

Claims 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 14, 16 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Goodman (U.S. Patent No. 5,594,779) and Wegrzyn (U.S. Patent No. 5,729,540) and further in view of Salomaki (WO 97/28649).

Claims 9 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Goodman, Wegrzyn and Salomaki and further in view of Kariya (U.S. Patent No. 6,169,897).

Claims 12 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Goodman, Wegrzyn and Salomaki and further in view of Bowen (U.S. Patent No. 6,052,606).

Applicant submits that the independent claims (claims 7 and 13) are patentable over Goodman, Wegrzyn, Salomaki, Kariya and Bowen.

Applicant's invention as recited in the independent claims is directed toward a mobile communication device and an information providing system including such a device. Each of the claims specifies that the mobile communication device is operable to transmit and receive information signals to and from a base station via radio waves. Furthermore, each of the claims recites that the mobile communication device is operable to encrypt received information signals and to store the encrypted signals in a removable semiconductor memory. More specifically, the claims recite in pertinent part: "a removable semiconductor memory for storing received information signals" and "processing means for encrypting the information signals prior to storage in said memory means."

Neither Goodman, Wegrzyn, Salomaki, Kariya nor Bowen discloses encrypting received information signals and storing the encrypted signals in a removable semiconductor memory. In particular, Applicant notes that Salomaki's smart card stores authorization information which is

used to decrypt encrypted information signals, but does not store the encrypted information signals (see e.g. Salomaki page 2, lines 4-15; and page 15, lines 12-36).

Since neither Goodman, Wegrzyn, Salomaki, Kariya nor Bowen discloses encrypting received information signals and storing the encrypted signals in a removable semiconductor memory, Applicant submits that claims 7 and 13 are patentable over Goodman, Wegrzyn, Salomaki, Kariya and Bowen - taken either alone or in combination - on at least this basis.

Claims 8-12 depend on claim 7. Since claim 7 is believed to be patentable over the cited references, claims 8-12 are believed to be patentable over the cited references on the basis of their dependency on claim 7.

Claims 14-18 depend on claim 13. Since claim 13 is believed to be patentable over the cited references, claims 14-18 are believed to be patentable over the cited references on the basis of their dependency on claim 13.

Applicant submits that all of the claims now pending in the application are in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes to these claims, as presented herein, are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled.

Statements appearing above with respect to the disclosures in the cited references represent the present opinions of the Applicant's undersigned attorney and, in the event that the Examiner disagrees with any such opinions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the respective reference providing the basis for a contrary view.

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

The Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Claims 7 and 13 have been amended as follows:

—7. (thrice amended) A mobile communication apparatus, comprising:

a) communication means for transmitting and receiving information signals to and from a base station via radio waves; said base station further transmitting and receiving information signals to and from a service provider through a public line network;

b) input/output means for a user to interact with said mobile communication apparatus; said input/output means comprising a keypad, display means, a speaker, and a microphone;

c) a removable semiconductor memory [means] for storing received information signals[, said memory means including a removable semiconductor memory]; and

d) processing means for encrypting the information signals prior to storage in said memory means;

whereby said communication apparatus is operable to receive said information signals from said base station automatically and periodically.—

—13. (thrice amended) An information providing system, comprising:

a service provider for transmitting and receiving information signals through a public line network;

a base station connected to said public line network for transmitting and receiving information signals to and from said service provider; and

a mobile communication device, having:

a) communication means for transmitting and receiving information signals to and from said base station via radio waves;

b) input/output means for a user to interact with said mobile communication apparatus; said input/output means comprising a keypad, display means, a speaker, and a microphone;

c) a removable semiconductor memory [means] for storing received information signals[, said memory means including a removable semiconductor memory]; and

d) processing means for encrypting the information signals prior to storage in said memory means;

whereby said mobile communication device is operable to receive said information signals from said base station automatically and periodically.—